

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 04762 052314Z
ACTION EA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1476

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 4762

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ACMM, ENRG, XMB, US, KS
SUBJECT: REQUEST BY FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE TO GRANT ACCESS TO EMBASSY
FILES BY FORMER COMMERICAL OFFICER THOMAS P. CROWLEY

REF: STATE 139953

1. CROWLEY CALLED ON ECON COUNSELOR TODAY AND PROVIDED BACKGROUND FOR HIS INQUIRY.
2. FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE STAFF HAD ASKED HIM ABOUT BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS' MISDEEDS DURING THEIR INVESTIGATION IN SEOUL LAST DECEMBER. CROWLEY SAYS HE TOLD THEM HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE ON BUSINESS SIDE. HOWEVER, ON USG OFFICIAL SIDE, HE REPORTED FOLLOWING: HE HAD WRITTEN A LONG TOP SECRET MESSAGE IN JULY 1975 WRAPPING UP NUCLEAR REACTOR SITUATION AND COVERING SOME VERY SENSITIVE MATERIAL. HE SUBSEQUENTLY HAD HEARD THE SUBSTANCE OF HIS MESSAGE REPEATED BACK AT A PARTY BY SIMEON PARK OF WHASHIN INDUSTIRAL CO. LTD. CROWLEY REPORTS HE ASKED PARK WHERE HIS INFORMATION CAME FROM. PARK REPORTEDLY RESPONDED FROM A JOHN BERRY, LEGAL COUNSEL FOR SENATOR STEVENSON. CROWLEY BELIEVED THAT PARK HAD SAID ENOUGH SO THAT THE MESSAGE HAD BEEN COMPROMISED. A SECOND WITNESS TO THE CONVERSATION HAD BEEN COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR THOMAS MAYFIELD. CROWLEY HAD LEFT IT TO MAYFIELD TO ACT ON THE APPARENT COMPROMISE BUT HAD NO KNOWLEDGE WHETHER HE HAD EVER ACTED ON IT -- HE ASSUMED
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NOT. IN ANY CASE, MAYFIELD'S DEATH REMOVED HIM AS A CORROBORATING WITNESS.

3. CROWLEY THEN ASKED TO BE ALLOWED TO SEE THE EMBASSY FILES FOR 1974 AND 1975 COVERING NUCLEAR POWER REACTORS, EX-IM BANK ACTIVITIES, AND HIS AND MAYFIELD'S CHRON FILES. HE WAS LOOKING FOR ANY WRITTEN MATERIAL MENTIONING THE

CONVERSATION WITH SIMEON PARK WHICH WOULD SUPPORT HIS MEMORY. HE HAD AGREED TO THIS SEARCH RELUCTANTLY, BUT UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE SUBCOMMITTEE STAFF WHICH WISHED HIM TO TESTIFY BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE THIS SUMMER AND HAD SAID IT WOULD SUBPOENA HIM IF HE DID NOT COOPERATE.

4. WE TOLD CROSLY THAT, AS WAS CUSTOMERY, THE FILES FOR THOSE YEARS HAD BEEN RETIRED AND THAT HIS AND MAYFIELD'S PERSONAL WORKING CHRON FILES HAD BEEN DESTROYED AFTER THEY HAD LEFT POST. CROWLEY SAID HE HAD BEEN AFRAID OF THAT AND HAD SO TOLD THE SUBOCMMITTEE STAFF. HE WOULD PHONE THEM OF THIS FACT TONIGHT.
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